17 >> HEADPHONE ACTOR IV

MY PAINFULLY RESTRICTED BREATHING...

...AND MY LEGS, WHICH FELT LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO BE RIPPED OFF...

THEY'RE ALL FINE NOW.

DID MY LAST WORDS MAKE IT THROUGH?

I WONDER...

...IS THIS WHAT DEATH IS LIKE?

...WOW, I CAN TALK.

UM... AND I... I HAVE A BODY TOO.

UGH...

THIS IS MAKING NO SENSE AT ALL TO—

AH!

AHHH, AHHH...!

AH!

HUH!?

IT'S LIKE...

...WAS I JUST HAVING SOME KIND OF WEIRD DREAM UP TILL NOW...?

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE I'M LOCKED UP OR ANY-THING...

OKAY, SO WHERE AM I, THEN?

I DID EVERY-THING I COULD TO REACH THAT HILL...

THE OUTSIDE WORLD WAS FALLING APART.

WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS IN THAT CLASS-ROOM...

...THROUGH THE HEAD-PHONES, I HEARD ANOTHER VERSION OF MYSELF.

...AND THEN...

HMM...

MY "ILLNESS" MUST HAVE MADE ME LOSE CON-SCIOUS-NESS.

I THINK I WAS REALLY WORKED UP ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER...

WHAT WAS IT, WHAT WAS IT...?

BUT HOW DID I WAKE UP IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

IT WAS LIKE I'D JUST WOKEN UP AFTER SUDDENLY PASSING OUT.

HELLO-OOO!?

IS ANYONE AROUND!?

NNNGH!! I'M TOTALLY LOST HERE!!

IT'S SO FREAKIN' DARK TOO!!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!!?

FU CAPPEARD

Y...

YEAGH!

BIKU (JUMP)

WELL, THAT CAME OUT OF NO-WHERE...

WHAT'S THIS...? SOME KINDA TV?

SUSUSU (SHFFF)

SOME KIND OF LAB ROOM?

WHAT IS THAT...?

HMM...

IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE MUCH... BUT I THINK SOMEONE'S TALKING?

—ze One looks like a success anyway.

Hah hah!

I wasn't expecting results like these on the first try.

SENSEI ...?

The year I spent preparing for this certainly seems worth it now!

THAT VOICE...

EH...

HUH...?

UGH, IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING!!

WHAT'S HE DOING IN THERE...?

...IS THAT...?

WHAT...

WH-
WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE!?

I
MEAN...

I'M
RIGHT
HERE...!

AH!!

WAIT, IS
THAT...

...M-
ME...!?

THIS
ISN'T WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN YOU
BECOME,
LIKE, A
GHOST,
IS IT?

AM I
REALLY
DEAD...?

PETAN
(SLUMP)

NO
WAY...

I THINK I HEARD SENSEI'S VOICE COME FROM THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE...

...BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

I HAVEN'T DISAP-PEARED!

WAIT, NO! I MEAN, I'M DEFINITELY STILL HERE AND EVERY-THING...

I CAN'T SEE AT ALL...

HE'S TOO FAR IN...

BETAAA (PRESS)

OOH, SENSEI! THERE HE IS!

WHA...?

HA...

HARUKA ...!?

...NO.

THAT WHITE HAIR, THOSE LIGHT PINK EYES...

I KNOW WHO THAT IS.

IT'S ***KONOHA***, THE GAME PERSONA HARUKA MADE!

BUT...BUT WHY...!?

?

Anyway, the key is now firmly in my grasp.

But, Konoha... you still haven't—

Now I can open the next Kagerou Daze.

HUH!?

ZAAA (KZZRSH)

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON!? MY BODY'S GONNA...!!!

AHHH...!

WHAT... WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN TO ME!!?

YAAGH!!

BAAAN (DLINDLIND)

DUH...

"DEE-LEE-TEE"!?

DELETE

DEL

AH!!

DAAH! NOTHING HAP-PENED!

WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN, THEN!?

HH

ZAAAAAA (KZZZRRSH)

DEE HEE HEE! ☆

NOT LIKE I HAD MUCH THERE ANYWAY...

OH WELL.

...MY CHEST...

AND...

AHHH, MY FEET ARE GONE...!!

...I'M PROBABLY GONNA DISAPPEAR...

AHH...

ALL I KNOW IS...

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

I CAN'T GO LIKE THIS...

OH...

...GOD...

...AH, MY POOR GIRL.

YOU'VE ALREADY LOST YOUR BODY. WHAT FURTHER POINT IS THERE TO LIVING NOW?

WHAT...?

I CAN CARVE A NICHE FOR MYSELF ANYWHERE I FEEL LIKE. IT'LL BE FINE.

WELL, I'LL MAKE ONE, THEN.

WELL...

EVEN IF YOU WENT BACK, THERE'S NO PLACE LEFT FOR YOU IN THE WORLD, YOU KNOW.

I MEAN, I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

OF...OF COURSE!

THAT'S HOW BADLY YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE, IS IT?

OH, SOMEONE'S ACTING A TAD TOO BIG FOR HER BRITCHES, ISN'T SHE?

WELL, GIRL, IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT...THEN OPEN YOUR *EYES*.

HUH?

...WAIT, WHO ARE YOU ANY-WAY?

MY EYES ARE BURNING...

SO HOT...

!

—HUH!

THIS MUST BE WHAT HE MEANT.

OKAY, THEN, FIRST THINGS FIRST... BETTER FIND A PLACE TO LIVE.

User

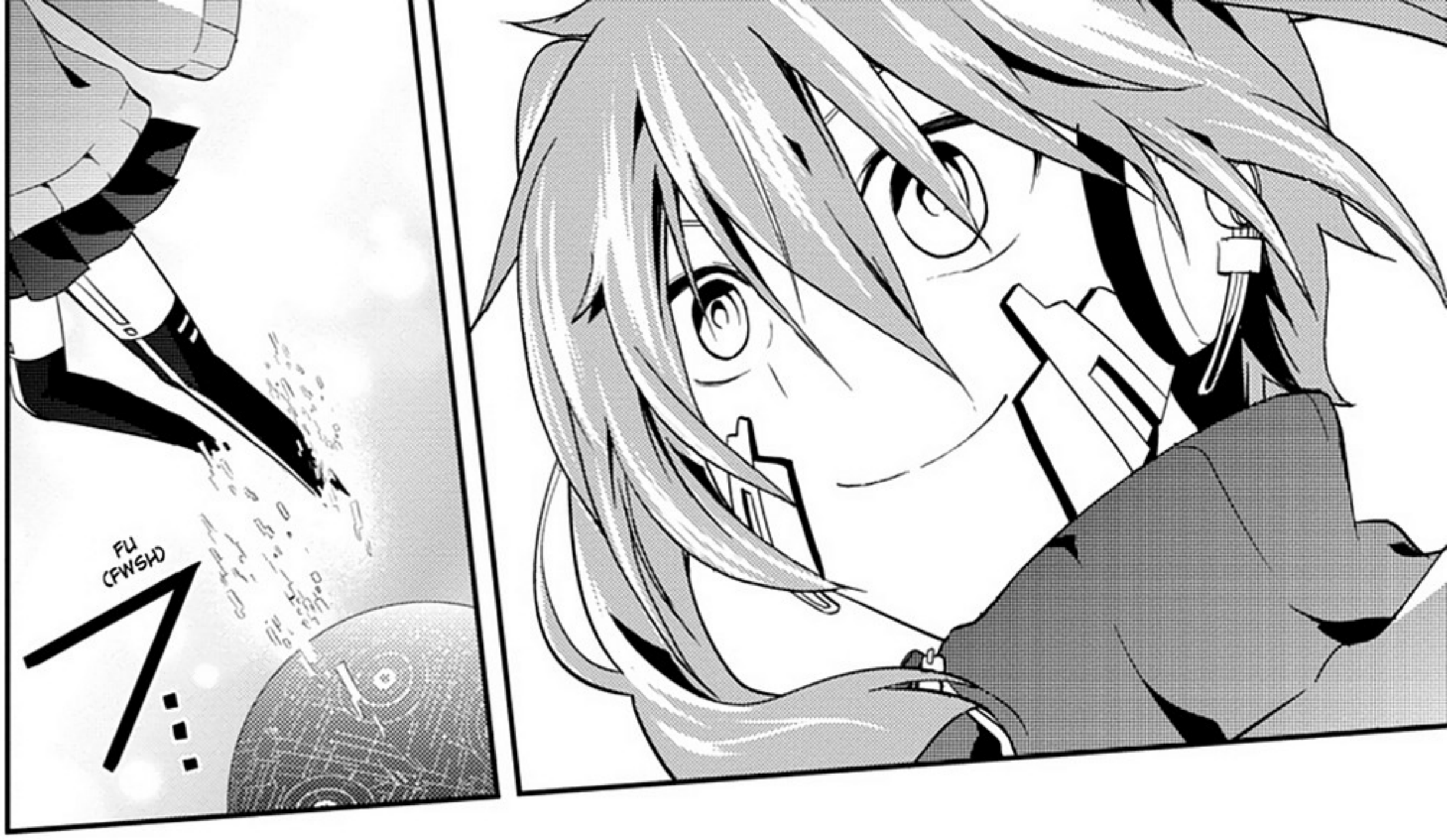
WELCOME

SOME PLACE WHERE I WON'T GET TOO BORED WOULD BE NICE.

SHU (PSSHP)

SHU

SHU



—AND
THUS, THE
TALE OF MY
LONG, LONG
JOURNEY
THROUGH THE
WORLD OF
COMPUTERS
BEGAN.

AUGUST 15, EVENING

MIIIN (BUZZ)

MIN

MIN

MIN

NGH ...

GEEZ, I'M BEAT...

I AM NEVER, EVER GOING TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK AGAIN...

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

MARIE GETTING ALL WORKED UP AND THEN TOTALLY RUNNING OUT OF GAS ON US...

YO, MARIE, YOU MIND WALKING BY YOURSELF? YOU'RE TIRING HIM OUT.

AW, C'MON, SHINTARO-KUN, THIS IS GREAT!

'SIDES, THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE EVER TO GIVE A GIRL A PIGGYBACK RIDE!

NGH...I'M TIRED... JUST A LITTLE MORE...

SETO...

CARRY ME AGAIN!

HOP ON OVER, MARIE!!

WARA

WARA

WARA

WARA (WANDER)

IT'S BEEN A REAL LONG JOURNEY.

AND NOW I'M IN THIS WEIRD BODY, BUT...

WHEE!!

HEE-HEE! LOOK HOW HIGH UP YOU ARE!

HIGHER, HIGHER!!

DUDE, JUST WALK!!

HEH.

MASTER!

!

SU (FWIP)

...IS SOMETHING UP?

HEY, ENE...

...IT'S NOTHING, MASTER!

JUST REMINISC-ING, IS ALL!

YOU'RE BEING AWFUL QUIET FOR A CHANGE.

ARE YOU SPACING OUT ON ME, OR WHAT...?

HANG ON, DO YOU FEEL LIKE TALKING ABOUT... YOUR PAST, THEN?

HUH?

ASKING ME ALL THOSE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY PAST AND STUFF!

IT'S YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW!

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO NOSY AND RUDE ABOUT THAT!?

WHAA—!?

I TOLD YOU— THAT'S ALL A SECRET!!

PUN (PUFF)

HAVIN' A FIGHT?

OH, DON'T WORRY. I'M SURE ONII-CHAN JUST ASKED ENE-CHAN SOMETHING WEIRD AGAIN!

NO! I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING OF THE SORT!!

HMM?

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GUYS, SHINTARO?

WHAT THE HELL'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?

.....

STOP THAT!!

OHHH, MAN...

... PRYING INTO A WOMAN'S PRIVATE AFFAIRS, HUH, SHINTARO?

NO...

NOW'S NOT QUITE THE RIGHT TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT.

SO, FOR NOW...

EVEN IF I DID, I DON'T KNOW IF HE'D BELIEVE SUCH A BIZARRE STORY.

...FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER...

...IF I CAN JUST KEEP THIS UP...

IF I CAN KEEP SMILING AND HAVING FUN LIKE THIS...

HEY, IS THAT GUY LOOKING AT US?

HUH?

HMM?

HE CAN'T... SEE ME, CAN HE!?

NO.

MY CONCEALING EYES SHOULD HAVE YOU COVERED, KISARAGI.

YEAH ...

MAYBE SO...

ZA GZSH

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?

...!

ZA CZSHD

WHAT'S... WITH HIM...?

WHAT ...?

ZA

UH, BOSS...

... NOW HE'S COMING THIS WAY...!

ZA

WHAT'S WRONG, MAS—?

?

ZA

ZA (CLSH)

KONO... HA...?